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By Frank P. MacLennan.

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WEATHER INDICATIONS.

Washington, Feb. 24.—For Kansas: Forecast till 8 p.m. Sunday: Fair Sunday, probably preceded today or tonight by snow flurry in eastern portion; warmer, variable winds.

GOVERNOR MCKINLEY is no longer without a home of his own. The property which Gov. and Mrs. McKinley conveyed to trustees last summer, when the governor was forced to make an assignment by the failure of the Youngstown manufacturer for whom he had indorsed notes, has been transferred back to them. This result is due to the efforts of the trustees, Mr. H. H. Kohlmann, of Chicago, Col. Myron T. Herrick of Cleveland, and Judge William R. Day of Canton. When they received the trust they decided, without consulting the governor, to raise the money with which to meet the governor's obligations. This has been fully done by private subscriptions. The final papers have been filed in the probate court at Canton, the property deeded back to Gov. and Mrs. McKinley, and the trustees discharged.

THE folly of college students which sometimes leads to dangerous "pranks" is brought vividly before the country by the recent occurrence at Cornell college. This is not the first time death has resulted at this college from a ruffian practical joke. Young Leggett, while being "hazed" at Cornell college some years ago was thrown from a cliff and killed. The Chicago Tribune reads a sound lecture to the authorities of Cornell college on the recent chlorine gas affair, as follows:

Now, such a performance as this is murder, and all those who were connected in the matter are murderers. Of course, they meant to annoy and not to kill. That may mitigate their guilt, but it does not do away with the fact that they have committed a crime. They knew they were committing a lawless, criminal act, and they are responsible for the consequences.

It is the duty of the civil authorities of Ithaca, with the assistance of the authorities of the college, to hunt down these offenders, bring them to justice, and make an example of them. This will be an effective step to check brutalities and brawls which are tolerated in American colleges. Cornell sophomores to the penitentiary will be a valuable object lesson for the sophomore and freshmen in other institutions.

The responsibility rests, however, on the college authorities. They should have put an end years ago to these senseless feuds of classes. Of course they have been afraid that if they did take effective measures to stop them students would leave and go elsewhere. So the authorities have tolerated what they knew was a crying evil. They have had their lesson now. They should act at once and end these disgraceful practices if they have to expel every student as a preliminary.

THERE is spreading all over the United States among the cities a movement for better municipal government. The intelligent citizens of the towns are tired of having the municipality run as a political machine by any party. They are moving for a system by which the city shall be managed as a private corporation with every citizen a stockholder. The city is not organized for the purpose of determining whether a majority of its people are for silver or a tariff, or for this or that man for governor; that is for state and national elections to settle. The city is a corporation for the purpose of paying and cleaning streets, providing for fire and police protection, for suitable sidewalks and sufficient lights, for affording a good sewerage system, for providing parks for the people, libraries and other necessities or luxuries as desired. Politics has no place in the government of cities. All the cities are, at least, after a century of bad government, awaking to this fact. The movement for municipal reform has sprung up like a giant in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Kansas City and other places, and it is time Topeka began to talk about it at least. Chicago is organizing for the good work under the name of the Civic Federation, which includes Republicans and Democrats in equal numbers. The organization is to consist of a board of trustees of fifteen members, a central council of ninety-nine, and such subordinate ward and precinct councils as may be organized from time to time. The need of these minor organizations is evident. The work of reform, to be most effectual, must be local.

To us—Peerless Steam Laundry.

IN DOLCE FAR NIENTE

YET THEY THINK THEY WORK LIKE GALLEY SLAVES.

One of the Beautiful Illusions of Public Life in Washington—Real Estate at the Capital—Rents Coming Down—Does Shepard's Work.

(Special Correspondence.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—One of the beautiful illusions of Washington is to the effect that everybody is shamefully overworked. It is Washington etiquette to assume this on all proper occasions as a universally admitted fact and to say anything to the contrary is a decided faux pas. From president to messenger boy, it is understood that every fellow is literally killing himself in the service of the public. I called the other morning on Senator Voorhees, and to my request for five minutes' time his reply was:

"My dear boy, I am always glad to see you, but it is impossible now to give five minutes' time to anybody. I am worked like a galley slave," and he went on to detail his troubles until my sympathies were powerfully excited. Now, just at this time the senator and some others are very hardly worked indeed, and so I went from him to one of the newest of the new men from the west. As he has no particular specialty and is near the tail end of an unimportant committee, I naturally looked for a comfortable and leisurely chat with him. But he began almost in the same words: "We are literally worked to death. We are driven like slaves," etc. But all the same, kindly made it convenient to talk an hour or so.

One Form of Toll.

An old friend of mine is chief of a little corner in one of the departments and is popularly held out to be about the busiest man in Washington. With this in view I called simply to pass the compliments of the day. Now, if I could trust my own eyes, I could swear that I found him leaning back in the easiest of chairs, with his feet on the fire guard and deep in the perusal of his home paper. But of course one ought not to believe his eyes in the face of such a statement as "I am really glad to see you and want to talk with you some Sunday afternoon, but from early Monday till late Saturday I am driven and hustled like a roostation on a steamboat."

This sort of talk has become a Washington fad and runs through all branches of business. If one will only stroll about and be careful not to hint that he wants anybody's time, he will find groups of congressmen enjoying themselves in the cloakrooms or committee rooms before the daily session begins, and other groups having a really hilarious evening in the hotel parlors. But the moment he hints at business there is a sudden and really amusing metamorphosis. The hard, business face is put on at once and the stereotyped sentence comes: "Well, if I had time—but really we members of the house [or senate], as the case may be haven't a minute we can call our own, and at present we are just driven to death. In fact, I'm up till past midnight every night answering letters from my constituents."

It is really painful to contemplate, and yet, so far as I can see, these gentlemen look very healthy; in fact, there is a marked tendency to embonpoint among them. Their death rate is certainly small, nor have I noticed any indecent tendency to resign.

Self-Sacrificing Spirits.

Another Washington fad, and a rather annoying one, is that so many people have made great sacrifices in taking the positions they hold. One man tells me that he had just built up a splendid law practice, his fees amounting to two or three times his salary here, but that his friends desired him to accept this post, and in time by faithful service he expects something better.

Kansas has 304,413 children of school age, 5 to 21 years. The semiannual apportionment of the state school fund, which has just been made, amounts to \$232,306.50. There was an increase of 3,000 school children during the past year.

Florence Bulletin. This fellow who believes there is no life beyond the grace of God, brings them to justice, and makes examples of them. This will be an effective step to check brutalities and brawls which are tolerated in American colleges. Cornell sophomores to the penitentiary will be a valuable object lesson for the sophomore and freshmen in other institutions.

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Professor Goldwin Smith of Toronto, who has never been more active intellectually than now, was 70 years old at his last birthday.

Lewis Etie, an old colored man residing in Jacksonville, Fla., is said to be the sole survivor of the Dade massacre during the Seminole war.

Herbert L. Kelsey has been employed as compositor on the New Orleans Picayune since that paper started publication in 1867. He is 60 years old.

All the grandsons of Charles Dickens bear the name of Charles. One of them, Gerald Charles Dickens, son of Henry Fielding Dickens, Q. C., has recently entered the British navy.

Uncle Alfred of Nashville is the only person now living who was present at the deathbed of Andrew Jackson. He was the president's body servant and is now doing guide duty about the Hermitage.

The Real Estate Market.

Next to the trade in luxuries, I should say that the trade in real estate was the dullest. Nevertheless the real estate men were all too busy to spare five minutes in business hours, but when I announced the scope of my inquiries and told them that intending residents really wanted to know something about Washington, they straightway found time. Of course they declared that there was really no decline in the value of real estate—"only the sales have stopped. You must not conclude from the few sales that have been lately made that general prices are as low as reported, for these were forced sales—in fact, just a little better than silver's sales." All that the depression has so far done is to stop the market. Nobody sells unless absolutely obliged to, and you must be very careful not to be misled by the prices in such cases."

Well, let us agree to quote no prices of the fee simple. We can say, however, to a moral certainty, that in all the new sections of the city, and especially in the northeast quarter, there has been a very noticeable decline in rents. It is not easy

to compare the rents in different cities, New York city especially is an exception, for there is a natural monopoly of land on Manhattan Island. But I will take it for the purposes of this comparison that real estate in Brooklyn three miles from the bridge and in an excellent neighborhood gives a very fair standard of comparison.

On that basis I am positive that rents in all the northeast section of Washington are one-third lower than in Brooklyn. In fact, I was offered a very good brick house of nine rooms—English basement—in what seemed to me a pretty and peaceful neighborhood for \$30 per month, tenant to pay his own water rates. Dozens of eight room houses can be had for \$22 and some really nice six room houses for \$25. On the other hand, in the northwest quarter of the city rents seem phenomenally high. In the vicinity of Duane circle, for instance, one pays \$50 a month for a plain house and \$60 more for the style of the neighborhood.

Moving to Baltimore.

There has indeed been a decided fall in rents in middle class dwellings, but the fall in Baltimore has been greater still—so much greater that some department clerks have moved their families there and find it much cheaper to room alone in Washington and go and come of Saturdays and Mondays. These are humble details, it is true, and do not glorify literature, but just at present there are several million people in the United States very much interested in just such figures. I was allowed in one office to look over a very curious compilation of rates and found, with surprise, that real estate has fluctuated in Washington rather more than in any other eastern city. To talk in full would be to write a history of the city.

Washington was put here by accident in the first place—or rather by log rolling. It is an old story, but will bear retelling. Hamilton wanted the state debts assumed, and the southern members wanted the capital on the Potomac, so Jefferson agreed to bring over two or three southern men to assumption if Hamilton would bring two or three northern members to consent to the removal of the capital southward. It was the first legislative bargain in our history and was honestly carried out. The state debts were assumed, and the capital was sprawled over the soft mud of the Potomac flats. It was the intention, however, that the city should be built east of the capitol. The boom there is east of the capitol. The boom in the first settlers westward, and the east waited 70 years for another boom.

Toward the close of the war of 1812 suburban property here was lower than good farm lands are now. Only a few years later it was phenomenally high and so continued till the panic of 1819 prostrated Washington and every other city. There was another boom in due time, and prices in 1837 had reached very nearly the highest point before the war. The regular crash followed, and for the next 25 years Washington was derisively spoken of as "a city of mud and magnificence distances."

A Fall in Prices.

The war boom was phenomenal, of course. Washington was suddenly overwhelmed by the great northern invasion, and prices went clear out of sight, as everybody knows. It is not so generally known, however, that they fell with a truly dull and sickening thud, and that a great many who had invested rashly came to grief. Of course there must have been some fall anyhow, for prices generally declined over 30 percent in the year 1865. But when the natural decline resulting from peace and contraction had ceased another decline set in, caused by the capital movers.

Captain Keays of St. Louis and all along there is almost forgotten now, but there was a time when his name was spoken among Washington real estate owners with the mingled feeling of hatred and dread which the name of Richard Cœur de Lion aroused among the Saracens. The captain really did come very near to making his movement a success, so near that real estate in Indianapolis at one time actually took a rise in the confidence that the capital would be moved there. Several places in Illinois and Missouri felt the thrill, and at one time it was definitely proposed to take the old Mormon town of Nauvoo for the site of the future capital.

And finally, though Washington seems to me one of the most leisurely of cities, I find this assumption of overwork running through all branches of business. If there is any one business faster than all others just now, it is the line of silk, lace and fine gloves, and calling this morning upon a friend who is in that line I find all the sales ladies enjoying themselves in such a gay, leisurely way that I envy them. There wasn't a customer in the store, yet the proprietor begged me to come and see him after business hours, when we could retire to a quiet restaurant, "for really I haven't one minute to spare. I am on the dead jump from 8 in the morning till 5 in the afternoon."

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A Japanese Advertisement.

Another incontestable proof of the rapid advance of the Japanese in civilization of the west is the following advertisement, which appeared in a Tokyo paper recently: "A young lady wishes to get married. She is very beautiful, has a rosy face, which is surrounded by dark curly hair. Her eyebrows show the form of the half moon, and the mouth is small and pretty. She is also very rich, well read enough to admire the flowers in the daytime at the side of a lady companion, or at night to sing to the stars in heaven. The man whom she will choose must also be young, handsome and well educated and be ready to share the same grave with her."

How the Population Increases.

It is computed that the death rate of the world is 67 a minute and the birth rate 70 a minute, and this seemingly slight percentage of gain is sufficient to give a net increase in population each year of almost 1,200,000 souls.

It is computed that 950,000 dinners and lunches are served daily in London restaurants.

M. S. PEPPER.

TWO MILAN BEAUTIES

FAIREST FLOWERS IN A CITY OF HANDSOME WOMEN.

Interesting Young Relics of an Ancient Race—The Durini and Casati Families. Rich, Beautiful and Good—Letter From Italy's Most Beautiful City.

(Special Correspondence.)

MILAN, Feb. 12.—Two of the fairest of the fair beauties of aristocratic Milan are Donna Carla, Contessina del Durini, and Contessina Maria Casati. These two young scions of an ancient race can trace their ancestry back to the middle ages, and many places in and about Milan are inseparably associated with the names of their forefathers, who in the annals of the fourteenth century are described as hereditary proprietors of strongholds at Monza, near Milan, and Moltrasio, on

LOCAL MENTION.

The case of the State against A. L. Snyder yesterday afternoon was again continued until Monday, February 25, at 9 a.m.

The patrol wagon will be on Tyler street on Monday, to collect for the poor. Those who have anything to give will take notice.

Two Rossville jointists, John Whipple and Frank Skinner, were arrested Thursday night and are now in the county jail in default of bail. Whipple was arrested at Silver Lake and Skinner was found on a farm west of Silver Lake.

Charles Parker, a Santa Fe employee, met with a painful accident while on his way to work, by tripping on a wire that was frozen in the ground, throwing him violently to the ground, fracturing his knee and causing internal injuries.

A new organization, which will probably be known as the Congregational Union, will be organized by the Congregationalists of this city. Its membership will consist of the pastors and officers of the Congregational churches in the city.

The cantata, "The Holy City," by Gau, which was to have been given at the First Presbyterian church tomorrow evening, has been postponed on account of the revival services being held there. It will probably occur one week from tomorrow evening.

Miss Lida McCool, who has arrived in the city to take charge of the evangelical work of the United Presbyterian church, is leading meetings at the Liberty church, which is a branch of the United Presbyterian. Besides this, she is making a canvass of the church members and is doing a general evangelical work. She will remain in the city for the next six months.

The Baptist church people worshipped with the Presbyterians on Thursday evening on account of the damage done to the church by fire. It is expected that the building will be repaired sufficiently to hold the Sunday services in it, but if it isn't, they will unite with the Presbyterians again and each minister will deliver a sermon at the services.

A new volunteer choral choir has been organized in the First Congregational church and will furnish music at Sunday morning services. It will be under the direction of Mr. Fisher. It consists of Mrs. Wahle, Mrs. Neher and Miss Carrie Maxson, and Moses Carl Osborn, John Sergeant, Frost and Neher. An orchestra will also furnish music at Sunday school and the church services.

The following new records in bowling have been made this week at the Athletic club: Five Back, R. T. Specht, 64; Seven Up, M. D. Henderson, 94; Cocked Hat with Finger, B. R. Lakin, 5; T' game, M. D. Henderson, 72; Glen Island, F. W. Foss, 29; College game, M. D. Henderson, 12; Four Back, F. W. Fossman, 34; Head Pin and Four Back, M. D. Henderson, 22.

Rev. B. L. Smith has received an urgent request from the southern states to go down there and hold revival services. They promise to "send him back increased in weight and pocketbook," but on account of his church duties and being president of the Associated Charities he has had to decline the invitation. Rev. Mr. Smith's reputation as a revival leader is wide and he receives numerous calls to different parts of the country.

SNAP SHOTS AT HOME NEWS.

The registration books are now open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

J. W. Goings has been elected treasurer of the First Christian church.

There will be a special meeting of the board of education Monday night.